

For Immediate Release

8th ANNUAL LOYOLA CENTENNIAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SET

It has been announced that Loyola College will host the Eighth Annual Centennial Basketball Tournament on Friday and Saturday, December 21st and 22nd. Games on the 21st are slated for 7 and 9 P.M. and on the 22nd for 6:30 and 8:30 P.M. at the College's Athletic Complex.

The event was established in 1967 by Loyola's Director of Physical Education and Athletics, Dr. Ed Enos, and has grown to the point where it rates as the top holiday tournament in the country. Each year the caliber of play has improved and this year will be no exception.

The four teams selected to play in this year's tournament are the defending Champions, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute from Troy, New York, Eastern Connecticut State College from Willimantic, Conn., Acadia University from Wolfville, Nova Scotia, as well as the host Loyola Warriors.

The Engineers from R.P.I. will be defending the tourney title they captured last year by edging St. Mary's Huskies 68-65 in the championship game. Coach Bill Kalbaugh's squad then went on to post a 17-9 overall record and an N.C.A.A. Eastern Regional bid. Four starters return from that outstanding club led by 6'1" high scorer Tom Juknis (16.9 ppg), 6'5" Carey Dassatti (15.4 ppg), 6'10" Jim Dunn and 6'2" playmaker Tom Gorman.

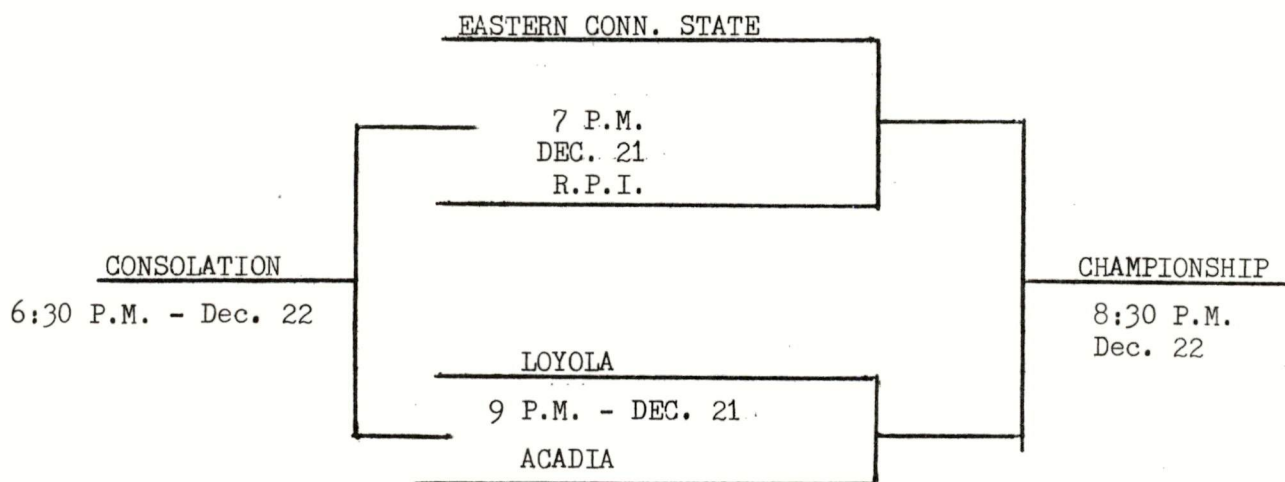
Coach Clyde Washburne's Eastern Conn. State Warriors are a young team, having lost several veterans from last year's 12-12 squad (which Loyola defeated 70-62 in Willimantic). Players to watch include 6'4" leading rebounder Ron LaVigne and a pair of 5'9" guards, playmaker Steve Snyder and shooter Gary LaFlemme. All are averaging in double figures thus far this young season.

From the Maritimes, making their first tourney appearance since 1968, come the controversial Acadia Axemen. Acadia was banned by the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union for violation of the new restriction on non-Canadians but recently has been reinstated when they agreed to go along with the rule. They are coached by first-year man Dick Hunt.

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The host Loyola Warriors, Q.U.A.A. pace-setters with a 6-0 league mark, are just coming off two tough games against St. Francis College and Iona College, both in New York City. Coach Doug Daigneault will be relying heavily on the board work of 6'5" local product Dave Kurtz, 6'4" Ron Puskarich and 6'3" veteran Greg Gill. Manning the guard slots will be the outstanding duo of John Erglis and Montrealer Wayne Hussey. The 6' Erglis was selected as an All-Star in the tough Potsdam St. Tournament while the 5'11" Hussey was accorded a similar honor in the Laurentian Tournament in late November.

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